

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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No Change in Class. ☐

There were no changes in the disposition of Soviet ground forces in the Soviet  
Zones of Germany or Austria up to the middle of January 1951.

GERMANY

Order of Battle Data.

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1. the over-all situa-  
tion of the Soviet Ground Forces in the Soviet Zone of Germany until the middle  
of January 1951.

2. The following units and rear service installations in the Soviet Zone of Germany,  
location, and date of observation, were between 1 Janua-  
ry and 1 February 1951:

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a. GHQ Units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOFG)

56th Motor Trans Regt	KRAMNITZ or WUENS DORF	3 January
Hq 6th Arty Div	RATHENOW	20 December
30th Gds Gun Arty Brig	POTSDAM	2 January
6th (?) Gds AAA Div	CHERNITZ-AUE	December
32d (?) AAA Div	KUESTRIN- FRANKFURT/Oder	27 December
An Engr Regt	POTSDAM	3 January
53d Central Repair Shop	BERLIN-OBER- SCHOENEFELDE	6 January
123d Tank Repair Shop	MUELLROSE KIRCHMOESER	22 January 9 January

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800th Ration Supply Depot	SATZKORN	16 January
820th Ration Supply Depot	FRANKFURT/Oder	27 January
Main Clothing Depot	BERNAU	25 January
Main Medical Depot	FUERSTENWALDE	9 January
Main Fuel Supply Depot	VELTEN	26 January
Main Ordnance Shop	JESSEN	21 January
A Repair Shop	WILDAU	21 January
 b. <u>Eighth Guards Army</u>		
220th Hv Tank SP Regt	GLAUCHAU	15 January
Army Ration Supply Depot	ERFURT-MARBACH	30 December
Army Ration Supply Administration	WEIMAR-ERFURT	15 December
Army Repair Shop	BURGSTAEDT	18 December
Army Fuel Depot	MUENCHENBERNSDORF	28 December
Hq 38th AT Arty Brig	ALTENBURG	9 January
Hq 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	RUDOLSTADT	2 December
13th Mtrcl Bn	RUDOLSTADT	4 December
Hq 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	NAUMBURG	10 January
170th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	NAUMBURG	15 November
174th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	WEISSENFELS	17 November
Hq 21st Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	WEISSENFELS	7 January
68th Gds Mecz Regt	HALLE	20 November
70th Gds Mecz Regt	HALLE	24 November
136th Gds Mort Regt	HALLE	21 December
114th (?) Gds Mtrcl Bn	?) HALLE	9 November
2505th (?) Gds AAA Regt	HALLE	21 December
 c. <u>Third Shock Army</u>		
598th Mtz Rifle Regt	STENDAL	23 December
Hq 19th Gds Mecz Div	HILLERSLEBEN	21 January
136th Gun Arty Regt	SCHWERIN	December

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286th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	SCHWERIN	January
199th Gds Gun Arty Regt	WISMAR	December
10th Gds RL Bn	SCHWERIN	10 January
58th Mecz Regt	PERLEBERG	December
59th Mecz Regt	LUDWIGSLUST	10 January
60th Mecz Regt	PARCHIM	December
Medium Tank Regt of the 18th Mecz Div	PARCHIM	December
119th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt	LUDWIGSLUST	December
1054th How Arty Regt	LUDWIGSLUST	January
348th Engr Bn	PERLEBERG	December
120th Mtrcl Bn	PARCHIM (?)	December
<u>d. First Guards Mechanized Army</u>		
Army Fuel Depot	DRESDEN	4 January
Hq 8th Gds Mecz Div	GRIMMA	14 December
1st Gds Tank Regt	BORNA	21 December
20th Gds Mecz Regt	WURZEN	21 December
265th Gds Mort Regt	WURZEN (?)	21 December
44th Gds Tank Regt	BAUTZEN	December
45th Gds Tank Regt	KAMENZ	December
<u>e. Second Guards Mechanized Army</u>		
47th Gds Tank Regt	NEUSTRELITZ	2 January
50th Gds Tank Regt	NEUSTRELITZ	26 December
Hq 1st Mecz Div	DOEBERITZ	24 January
35th Mecz Regt	DOEBERITZ	24 January
3d Tank Bn of the 37th Mecz Regt	DOEBERITZ	8 August
219th Tank Regt	DOEBERITZ	24 January
<u>f. Third Guards Mechanized Army</u>		
Army Hq	LUCKENWALDE	18 December

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91st Gds RL Regt	TREBBIN	3 January
Hq 14th Gds Mecz Div	JUETERBOG	13 January
47th Gds Mecz Regt	JUETERBOG	19 October
49th Gds Mecz Regt	JUETERBOG	13 January
23d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	KOFTHEN	12 December
384th Gds How Arty Regt	BERNDURG	15 December
Hq 9th Mecz Div	COTTBUS	2 January
91st Tank Regt	LUEBBEN	December
Hq Tank SP Regt of the 9th Mecz Div	SPRIMBERG	15 November
692d How Arty Regt	COTTBUS	December
<u>E. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army</u>		
12th Mobile Arty Shop	KETSCHENDORF	25 January
35th (?) Gds Mecz Regt	BERNAU	6 January 50X1-HUM
82d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt	EBERSWALDE or BERNAU	24 November
676th How Arty Regt	BERNAU	6 January
22d Gds Engr Bn	BERNAU	6 January
AAA Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div	BERNAU	22 November
Hq 7th Gds Mecz Div	FUERSTENWALDE	19 January
111th Tank Regt	PRENZLAU	6 January
162d Tank Regt	ORANIENBURG	21 December
61st Gds Tank Regt	DOEBERITZ	24 January
63d Gds Tank Regt	BRANDENBURG	25 November
359th Gds AAA Regt	KRAMPNITZ	6 December
248th Gds RL Bn	KRAMPNITZ	26 December

Training

3.

the majority of the units in all army areas were at their posts and engaged in routine winter training. The training of recruits was still the prominent feature in the training program of all units which consisted of basic training with

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and without arms, mostly in the billeting areas proper; and field and combat training, including combat firing practice, mostly in the vicinity of the posts. The tank units were engaged in technical instruction as well as driving and firing practice with individual tanks in the field. Several units began training at platoon level as early as January 1951. Units at some military posts, such as POTSDAM and DESSAU-ROSSLAU, rotated their elements to newly-constructed field emplacements and shelters in nearby woods and training areas, where they continued training under conditions similar to those in the field.

organizational AAA units had their personnel man AA gun emplacements for training purposes. No large-scale winter exercises were conducted prior to the middle of January 1951.

camp buildings were winterized, it is believed that, in the course of the winter training program, some units may have already held, or are going to hold, such exercises.

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#### Arrival of Personnel and Replacements

4. From 29 December to 2 January 1951, a total of 48 boxcars with troops arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany, going via KUESTEN as usual. Some of them were coupled to empty, westbound shuttle-trains. No such movements were subsequently observed up to the middle of January 1951. The troops may have been recruits arriving behind schedule, or specialists.

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5. The influx of officer replacements into the Soviet Zone of Germany continued up to mid-January 1951. in JUETERBOG alone 450 officers arrived, who were billeted together and attended courses in LUCKENWALDE.

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6. The volume of daily leave traffic through FRANKFURT/Oder was about the same as during recent months. While only one pair of trains daily was running on the FRANKFURT/Oder-BREST LITOVSK line during the summer months of 1950, a second pair began daily runs on that line on 24 October 1950. Since 24 January 1951, the second pair of leave trains has run only four days of the week.
7. The strength of the Soviet Army personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany is estimated at 290,000 men, not including SCC or LVD/MGB. (1)
8. Unlike the large-scale shipments of artillery pieces and trucks which arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany from the U.S.S.R. in December 1950, the materiel shipped to the Soviet Zone of Germany between 1 and 19 January 1951 included no artillery pieces, but 43 used motor vehicles, 20 new motor vehicles, and 44 full-track 7-ton vehicles, probably tractors, 22 of which were bound for LUDWIGSLUST and 22 for WEIMAR.

#### Movements

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9. In mid-November 1950, the barracks installation at the MEURUPPIN airfield was vacated by Soviet Army units. The 34th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div had been located there up to that time. Since motor vehicles of the 12th Gds Tank Div were subsequently observed at the barracks installation of DROEGEN near FUERSTENBERG, it was believed that the 34th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt was transferred to DROEGEN.

The headquarters units of the Second Gds Mecz Army which were previously stationed in DROEGEN probably moved to the Weisse Stadt settlement, ORANIENBURG.

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10. The situation in the WUENSDORF-ZOSSEN area, which was not reoccupied by companies of the 19th Gds Mecz Div in the fall of 1950, has remained unchanged since December 1950. Reconditioning work in most of the installations there was scheduled to last until the end of January 1951. (2)

[redacted] a high-echelon headquarters was to be accommodated in the former German Panzertruppen Schule.

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11. [redacted] artillery units, perhaps of the unidentified AT Arty Brig, possibly the 3d Gds, of the LXXIX Ptz Rifle Corps, have been permanently stationed at ALTENGRABOW during the winter. Prior to the fall of 1950, the quarters at ALTENGRABOW were occupied by components of the unidentified AAA Div, possibly the 32d, of the GDFG.

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12. According to newspaper dispatches [redacted]

[redacted] private quarters in the Thuringian border area were requisitioned for Soviet personnel, and Volkspolizei units assigned to border duty [redacted] were replaced by Soviet troop units. Simultaneously, [redacted] residents were evicted in several towns, including OBERHOF, SUHL, MEININGEN, and WELKERSHAUSEN. [redacted] a Soviet high-echelon headquarters would be set up in OBERHOF. However, [redacted] no such measures were observed in the towns mentioned up to 25 January 1951. On the other hand, [redacted] border guard detachments were reinforced by Soviet troops have been received at an increased rate since early January 1951, [redacted]

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AUSTRIAGeneral

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13. The overall disposition of the Soviet ground troops of the Central Group of Forces in the Soviet Zone of Austria remained unchanged up to the middle of January 1951.

14. The components of the Soviet divisions in Austria were at their posts during the first half of January 1951. Their winter training program probably corresponded to that of the units in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

15. The following units in the Soviet Zone of Austria, [redacted] location, and date of observation, were confirmed between 1 January and 1 February 1951:

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45th Gds Mecz Regt of the 13th  
Gds Mecz Div

VIENNA

13 November

15th Tank Regt of the 13th Gds  
Mecz Div

BRUCK/Leitha

25 November

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233d Gds How Arty Regt of the  
95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div

unlocated

March

23d (?) AAA Div (Regt) of the  
Central Group of Forces

STOCKERAU

31 December

A Motor Trans Bn of the  
Central Group of Forces

LAXENBURG

26 December

18. [redacted] the 55th Tng  
Regt, is located in the BRUCK area. It is probably directly subordinate to the  
Hq Central Group of Forces, because the training units of divisions are only  
of battalion strength.

19. There are indications that some unidentified units are stationed in ALLENTSTEIG.  
They probably belong to the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div.

#### Personnel

20. In December 1950, about 1,000 officers from the U.S.S.R. arrived in VIENNA. Most  
of them were company-grade officers up to 30 years of age. This influx of of-  
ficers fairly definitely indicates that, as in the Soviet Zone of Germany,  
officer replacements arrived in the Soviet Zone of Austria on a large scale. It  
is believed that by using these officers and taking other measures, such as the  
commissioning of suitable NCOs, the Central Group of Forces is bringing its  
officer personnel up to full authorized strength and in addition, is establishing  
an officer replacement pool. [redacted] the shipment of officers from VIENNA  
to the east, probably toward BUDAPEST, indicates that the officers who recently  
arrived in VIENNA were also reassigned to units of the Central Group of Forces  
in Hungary.

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21. [redacted] of the 169th Gds Rifle Regt, the 1st MOSCOW Gds Rifle Div was [redacted]  
in KOENTOSBERG, Baltic LD, until November 1950.

#### Comments.

- (1) For a break-down of the estimate of the strength of Soviet Army personnel in the  
Soviet Zone of Germany, See Annex 1.

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ANNEX

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Estimate of the Strength of Soviet Army Personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany1. Basis for Calculation

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a. Percentage of Actual Strength Compared with Wartime T/O:

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Actual strength	Strength according to	Percentage of actual strength
	A: Peacetime strength	
	B: Wartime T/O	

Topo Plat of an Arty Bn of the 676th How Arty Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div in BERNAU (Date: 25 December 1950): 1 officer, 6 NCOs, 4 EM. Total: 11	A: 1; 2; 7 B: 1; 4; 12	A: 110 percent B: 65 percent	50X1-HUM
4th Btry (122-mm How) of the 676th How Arty Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div (Date: 13 November 1950): 5 officers, 12 NCOs, 33 EM. Total: 50	A: 4; 16; 28 B: 4; 16; 45	A: 104 percent B: 77 percent	
III How Bn of the 233d Gds How Arty Regt of the 95th Gds Mtz Rifle Div in Austria (Date: 21 March 1950): 21 officers, 48 NCOs, 123 EM; Total: 192	A: 21; 55; 95 B: 21; 55; 164	A: 112 percent B: 80 percent	

The table indicates that the established and authentic actual strengths represent approximately 110 percent of the peacetime T/O and approximately 75 percent of the wartime T/O. Data concerning 50X1-HUM

units of not less than battalion size must be used for an estimate, since with smaller units the percentage is considerably influenced by even one vacancy. Assuming that the units stationed in Austria have approximately the same actual strength as the units stationed in Germany, the strength listed for the howitzer battalion of the 233d Gds How Arty Regt in Austria can be taken as an appropriate basis for calculation. Artillery units may possibly have an actual strength nearer to the wartime T/O than infantry units since the latter can more easily be brought to full strength within a short time. On the other hand, replacements who arrived in the fall of 1950, as well as personnel demobilized at the same time have not been taken into consideration in the strength of the howitzer battalion, dated March 1950. On the basis of these reflections, the present actual strength of all combat units in Germany was assumed in the calculation to be 75 percent of the wartime T/O. Judging from the examples listed, it is believed that three different T/O and E exist in the Soviet Army: First, wartime T/O and E in the event of mobilization; second, peacetime T/O and E for units in the interior of the U.S.S.R. of about 67 to 70 percent of the wartime T/O and E; and third, special T/O and E for units in occupation areas and border sectors of the U.S.S.R. of about 75 to 80 percent of the wartime T/O and E.

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b. Strength of the Rear Services

In 1944 the strength of the rear services of a Soviet front (now group) above division level was estimated at 18.3 percent of the wartime T/O of the subordinate combat troops. In peacetime, the strength of the rear services is believed to be well below that, even in occupation areas, since the supply requirements are reduced and the German civilian transportation and repair installations are used by units down to division. On the basis of rough estimates, the army rear services were put at 6 percent of the strength of the combat and headquarters units of an army, and the GOFG rear services at 2 percent of the total strength of all armies.

c. Increase of the Motor Vehicle Equipment

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No useful calculative basis can be developed [ ] for the calculation of increases in personnel strengths, since the percentage of increase in motor vehicle equipment evidently exceeded that of the increase in personnel. To illustrate, approximately 1,300 more motor vehicles (or 25 percent) were observed with the Third Shock Army in the summer of 1950 compared with the summer of 1948 while the personnel strength is believed to have increased not more than between 10 and 15 percent.

d. Strengths of the Headquarters and GHQ Units

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[ ] the strengths observed during World War II were assumed as T/O and E for the estimate of the strength of the headquarters and GHQ units. While 75 percent of the wartime T/O and E were assumed for GHQ units, the strengths of the headquarters were assumed in full wartime strength, since observations indicated that their personnel strength is high in the occupation areas.

2. Estimate of Actual Strengths by Unitsa. Eighth Gds Army

Army Hq	450
Hq XXVIII and XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps	420
39th and 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Divs (wartime T/O: 11,200)	16,800
20th and 21st Gds Mecz Divs (wartime T/O: 14,200)	21,300
13th AAA Div (wartime T/O: 2,400)	1,800
43d (Gds) Gun Arty Brig	1,100
Two AT Arty Brigs (38th and ? NO)	2,400
Three Sig Bns (446th, 27th Gds, and ? No)	600
Three Engr Bns (19th Gds, 880th, and ? No)	840
220th Gds Mv Tank SP Regt	850
257th Motor Trans Bn	350
Total combat and headquarters units	46,910
Rear Services Eighth Gds Army (6 percent)	2,800
Total Eighth Gds Army (approx.)	49,700

b. Third Shock Army

Army Hq	450
Hq IX and LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps	420
94th Gds and 207th Mtz Rifle Divs	16,800
19th Gds and 18th Mecz Div	21,300
3d Gds AAA Div	1,800

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14th (?) Gun Arty Brig	1,100
Two AT Arty Brigs (3d Gds and 4th Gds?)	2,400
136th Hvy Tank SP Regt	850
105th Sig Regt	650
95th Gds RL Regt	400
Two Signal Bns (977th and ? No)	400
Three Engr Bns (15th Gds, 890th and ? No)	840
? No Motor Trans Bn	350
Total Combat and headquarters units	47,760
Rear Services Third Shock Army (6 percent)	2,870
Total Third Shock Army (approx.)	50,600

c. First Gds Mecz Army

Army Hq	420
9th Tank and 11th Gds Tank Divs (wartime T/O: 11,500)	17,300
8th Gds Mecz Div	10,650
4th Gds AAA Div	1,800
? No Light Arty Brig	1,200
1st Assault Engr Regt	900
6th Mtrcl Bn	300
One Sig Bn (not identified, but believed to exist)	200
One Motor Trans Bn (not identified, but believed to exist)	350
Total combat and headquarters units	33,120
Rear Services First Gds Mecz Army (6 percent)	1,990
Total First Gds Mecz Army (approx.)	35,100

d. Second Gds Mecz Army

Army Hq	420
9th Gds and 12th Gds Tank Divs	17,300
1st Mecz Div	10,650
31st AAA Div	1,800
One Light Arty Brig (not identified, but believed to be present)	1,200
? No Sig Regt	650
413th Pon Bridge Bn	280
One Motor Trans Bn (not identified, but believed to be present)	350
Total Combat and headquarters units	32,650
Rear Services Second Gds Mecz Army (6 percent)	1,960
Total Second Gds Mecz Army (approx.)	34,600

e. Third Gds Mecz Army

Army Hq	420
14th Gds and 9th Mecz Divs	21,300
6th Gds and 7th Gds Tank Divs	17,300
? No AAA Div	1,800
199th Light Arty Brig	1,200
91st Gds RL Regt	400
50th Mtrcl Regt	600
? No Engr Bn	350

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77th Motor Trans Bn	200
One Sig Bn (not identified, but believed to be present)	200
Total Combat and headquarters units	43,850
Rear Services Third Gds Mecz Army (6 percent)	2,630
Total Third Gds Mecz Army (approximately)	46,500

f. Fourth Gds Mecz Army

Army Hq	420
6th Gds and 7th Gds Mecz Divs	21,300
10th Gds and 25th Tank Divs	17,300
? No AAA Div	1,800
11th Gds (?) AT Arty Brig	1,200
312th Gds RL Regt	400
118th Sig Regt	650
3d Engr Regt	900
93d Gds Hvy Tank SF Regt	850
One Motor Trans Bn (not identified, but believed to be present)	350
Total Combat and headquarters unit	45,170
Rear Services Fourth Gds Mecz Army (6 percent)	2,710
Total Fourth Gds Mecz Army (approx.)	47,900

g. GHQ Units of GOFG

Hq GOFG	700
Hq IV Arty Corps	230
Hq 6th Arty Div	150
? No (65th?) Light Arty Brig	1,200
10th (?) Gun Arty Brig	1,100
18th How Arty Brig	1,300
Arty Rcn Bn (not identified)	250
Rear Services 6th Arty Div	300
Hq 34th (?) Arty Div	150
? No (4th?) AT Arty Brig	1,200
30th Gds Gun Arty Brig	1,100
? No Arty Brig	1,100
Arty Rcn Bn (not identified)	250
Rear Services 34th Arty Div	300
? No (25th) RL Brig	900
2d Gds AAA Div	1,800
6th (?) Gds AAA Div	1,800
32d (?) AAA Div	1,800
36th Pon Bridge Regt	900
? No Engr Regt	900
? No (66th) Sig Regt	650
56th Motor Trans Regt	800
Total Combat strength of GHQ units of GOFG	18,380
Rear Services of GHQ units	1,130
Total GHQ units of GOFG	20,000

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3. Total Strength of Soviet Ground Forces in Germany

Eighth Gds Army	49,700
Third Shock Army	50,600
First Gds Mecz Army	35,100
Second Gds Mecz Army	34,600
Third Gds Mecz Army	46,500
Fourth Gds Mecz Army	47,900
GHQ units GOFG	20,000
	<u>284,400</u>
Additional Rear Services under Group HQ (2 percent)	<u>5,700</u>
Total strength of Soviet Ground Forces in Germany (without SCC and MVD/MGB)(approx.)	290,000

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